

CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 6 – The Church Deteriorates (100-461)

1. Many Evils are Present
 - a. *Refer to the dates above on the experience of the church from previous chapters*
2. Early Signs of Deterioration
 - a. *Jesus Christ clearly said it to John of Patmos*
 - b. *The writings of the Apostolic Fathers clearly defined the growing problem of the members in the church*
 - c. *By the end of the 5th Century unscriptural practices and doctrines deeply rooted into the church: Prayer for the Dead, belief in Purgatory, the forty-day Lenten season, the Lord's supper as sacrifice and the priest as administrators, a sharp division of the clergy and laity, veneration of martyrs and saints, adoration of Mary, burning of tapers/candles in their honor, veneration of relics of martyrs and saints, ascribing magical powers to these relics, pictures, images, and altars, gorgeous vestments for the clergy, more elaborate and splendid rituals, less preaching, pilgrimage to holy places, monasticism, worldliness, persecution of heathens and heretics*
3. The Causes of Deterioration
 - a. *The Christians are saints but also sinners*
 - b. *The ancient Church misunderstood and misinterpreted the Old Testament and still working on the scriptures*
 - c. *The Heathen Environment*
4. Monasticism Develops as a Reaction
 - a. *Started in Egypt around AD 270 by Anthony of Thebes who withdrew from the community to live alone in the caves (hermit); soon large houses were used to accommodate many monks called monasteries*
 - b. *Simon Stylites of Syria, Athanasius, Ambrose, Jerome, and Augustine did much to promote monasticism*
5. The Church Begins to Persecute Heretics
 - a. *The table turns as the Emperors now outlawed Heathen worship and persecute heretics; sometimes Christians persecute his fellow Christian*
 - b. *Chrysostom (golden mouth), the Patriarch of Constantinople was banished to Pontus only to die along the way because he has to walk barefoot on the desert and bareheaded under the blazing sun – this was all because of the scheming of Theophilus, the bishop of Alexandria*
 - c. *Augustine advocated persecution based on his interpretation of Luke 14:23 – this bear some bitter fruits in the years to come*